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Forty-first Report

COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS OF THE VIETNAM AND LAOS SETTLEMENT AGREEMENTS AND RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

(This report covers the period from 28 November through 4 December 1973

This report has been prepared jointly by the Central Intelligence Agency and the Department of Defense.

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5 December 1973

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			5 December 1973	
		Forty-First Report		
		IST VIOLATIONS OF THE VIETNATE AGREEMENTS AND RELATED		
	fr	(This report covers the week om 28 November through 4 Decemb	per 1973)	
	25X1	The Key Points		
	highli	nunist military activity in South ghted by heavy action in Quang Duck by fire against the country's largest plex.	Province and an	
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		rt has been prepared jointly by the e Department of Defense.	Central Intelligence	
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Preface

This report is the forty-first in a series summarizing evidence received during the reporting period of (I) Communist efforts to infiltrate new manpower and military materiel toward and into South Vietnam, (II) Communist-initiated combat activity in violation of the Vietnam and Laos settlement agreements, and (III) other developments affecting Communist military capabilities in Indochina.

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	Movement of Military Equipment and Supplies	
		2
	Southern Laos	
	7. Heavy dry season truck traffic has apparently resumed along the recently upgraded Ho Chi Minh Trail in southern Laos. Between 27 November and 2 December, about 600 cargo trucks, some 90 carrying	
	pontoon bridge sections, were observed in groups of 30 to 100 vehicles moving south along the central portions of the new dual-lane road system. In addition, another 240 trucks were observed parked along the same route during the period. Northbound traffic was exceptionally light on all days	
	but 2 December, when about 200 empty trucks were observed heading north toward Muong Nong. In addition to cargo trucks, several possible artillery pieces were seen in tow with the convoys.	•
•	8. The actual number of trucks moving south or parked probably is considerably less than the 840 aggregated	2
	15 Constactiony ross than the circ apprepared	

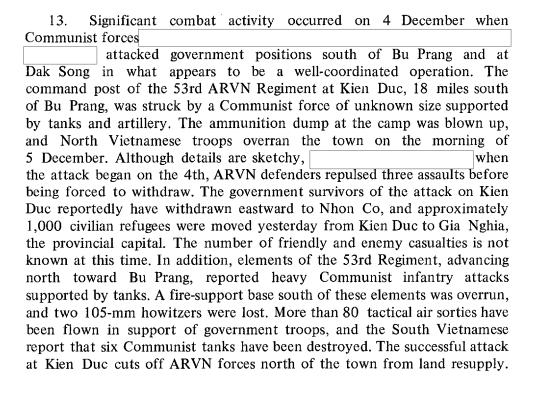


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	route system probably reflects the passage of large groups of vehicles that had entered the system undetected A large number of the vehicles are probably associated with the movement of	25X1
	engineering and support equipment to secure and maintain the route structure during the coming months. the North Vietnamese have probably launched their annual dry season	25X1 25 X 1
	logistical push through southern Laos, apparently at a pace exceeding last year's initial effort.	25X1
		••
		•
	South Vietnam	
	10. The level of logistic activity in northern South Vietnam last week was low. Heavy rains continue to impede traffic in Quang Tri and Thua	·
	Thien Provinces. sections of road in Thua Thien Province	25 X 1
25X1	were still impassable because of mud. Moreover, a large portion of Route 9 in western Quang Tri Province is closed to vehicular traffic as a result of weather, and some other routes,	25X1
	which were reported as open, could sustain only limited traffic.	•
	II. Communist-Initiated Combat Activity in South Vietnam and Laos	•
	South Vietnam	
	11. In South Vietnam the total number of Communist-initiated cease-fire violations reported by the South Vietnamese Armed Forces since 27 January, since 15 June, and for the last week (28 November - 4 December) are shown below:	
	4	
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Military Region	27 J	ll Since anuary se-Fire	15	ll Since June se-Fire		st Week ov - 4 Dec)
	Major	Minor	Major	Minor	Major	Minor
Total	4,114	26,471	1,745	12,516	85 (82) ¹	614(633)
MR 1	1,489	5,393	464	2,034	16	77
MR 2	674	4,425	410	2,571	20	122
MR 3	621	4,675	219	2,099	15	107
MR 4	1,330	11,978	652	5,812	34	308

^{1.} Figures in parentheses denote totals of the previous week.

12. Some of these violations may have been initiated by South Vietnamese forces rather than Communist forces, and it is impossible in all cases to determine the actual instigator. The tabulation above and the charts following the Annex, however, show fairly accurately the trend in the amount of combat that has occurred in South Vietnam since the cease-fire. The fact that a combat incident occurred at a particular time and place is generally reported accurately by the South Vietnamese, even though the question of who started it may not always be treated objectively.



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Their position will become increasingly untenable should ARVN prove unable to retake the town quickly. Map 515529 shows the current distribution of Communist and South Vietnamese combat forces, by military region.

14. To the south, an enemy attack by fire occurred on 2 December at the Nha Be petroleum storage area six miles southeast of Saigon. The Shell storage complex was almost totally destroyed. Preliminary estimates of the number of barrels of petroleum destroyed range as high as one-half million, most of which was allocated to the civilian sector. Nha Be, which also includes an Esso and Caltex depot, is the main receiving point for petroleum imported into South Vietnam and is the transshipment point for petroleum sent to Phnom Penh via the Mekong River. This attack may portend further Communist efforts to reduce South Vietnam's petroleum reserves and to disrupt distribution at a time when US oil companies are being forced to reduce deliveries. While the loss is serious, the American Embassy in Saigon estimates that it will not affect the long-range viability of either ARVN military operations or the civilian economy. Rationing for the civilian sector, however, is certain.

Laos

15. There was no significant military activity in Laos last week.

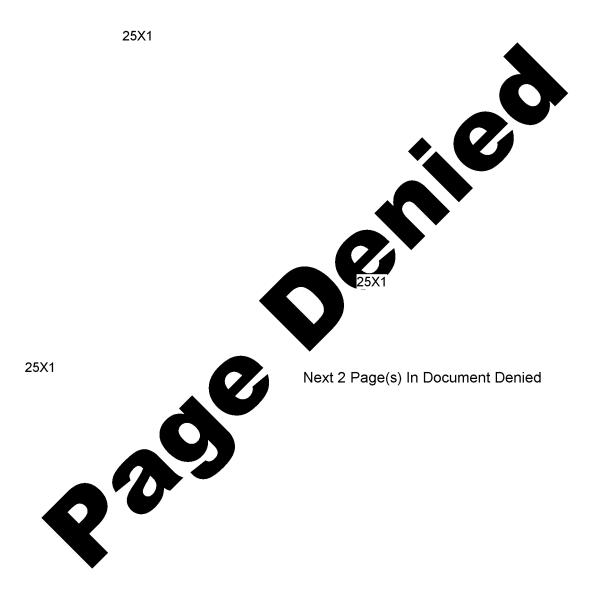
III. Other Developments Affecting Communist Military Capabilities in Indochina

Increased SA-7 Firings in South Vietnam

16. Since early November, an increase in VC/NVA firings of SA-7 missiles within South Vietnam has been noted. During the first three weeks of the month, more than a dozen such missiles were reported by the South Vietnamese to have been launched against South Vietnamese Air Force (VNAF) aircraft, the first such activity in South Vietnam since mid-August. Although SA-7s are widely distributed among VC/NVA units throughout South Vietnam, some 70% of the recent firings have been in the Bu Prang area of Quang Duc Province, the scene of heavy fighting and VNAF activity since early November. The remaining firings have been in Dinh Tuong Province in MR 4. Increased SA-7 firings can be expected whenever VNAF significantly increases its activity.

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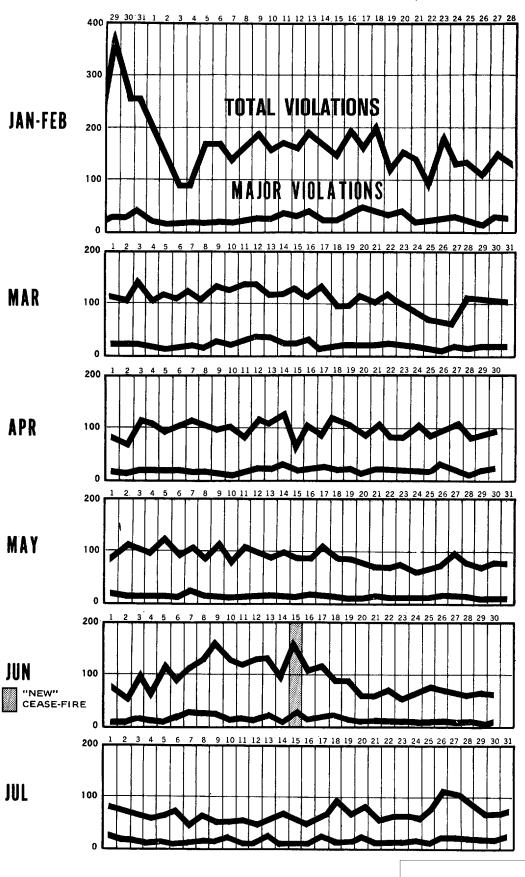


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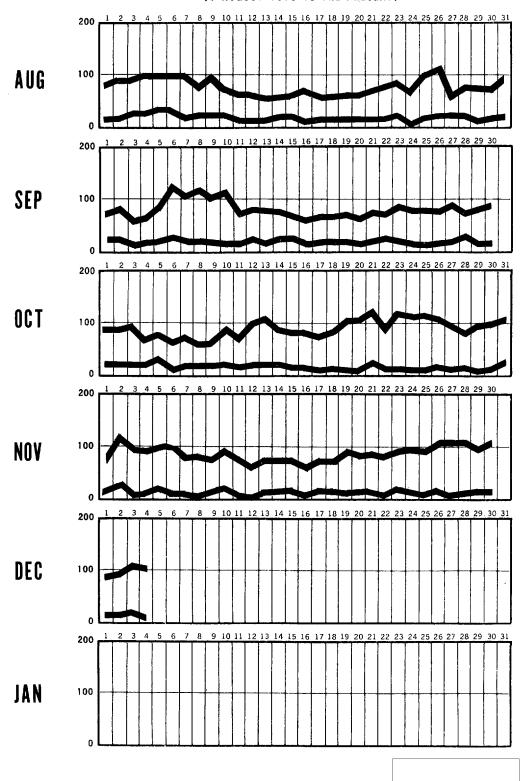
(28 JANUARY THROUGH 31 JULY 1973)





CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AS REPORTED BY RVNAF

(1 AUGUST 1973 TO THE PRESENT)



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